

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

January 23, 2017

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

- Three news stories
- Vocabulary building activities
- Listening comprehension activities
- Transcripts
- Answer keys

News story #1 Garland murder trial enters second week (0:11)

Setting the Scene



Murder suspect Douglas Garland, *right*, and the home where the three victims were last seen, *left* (Court evidence/CBC) (CBC file photo)

Douglas Garland of Calgary has been accused of murder. In 2014, a five-year-old boy and his grandparents disappeared from their home. Their bodies were never found. Police arrested Garland for the murder of those three people. However, Garland says that he is innocent. Now, the case is being handled in a trial. This is when a judge decides if a person is guilty or not guilty. A lawyer representing Garland and a lawyer representing the crown (the government of Canada) are also at the trial. Their jobs are to give the judge all the evidence and information he/she needs to make a decision.

Pre-listening Questions

What are some jobs that are connected to law?

Do you follow trials in the news? Why or why not?

Can you think of another famous trial in Canada? Do you know of a famous trial in your home country?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

trial (n.)	legal process of deciding who committed a crime
accused (v.)	believed to be responsible for a crime
guilty (adj.)	responsible for a crime
partnership (n.)	the state of two people/businesses/groups working together
rural (adj.)	relating to the countryside, not to cities
victim (n.)	a person affected by a crime
evidence (n.)	something which shows something else is true; proof

1. A group of customers _____ the company of selling unsafe cars. They said the company was _____ of lying to the public about safety.
2. It can be difficult for businesses in _____ areas to get a lot of customers. Michael has a _____ with a tourism company. Bus tours come to his restaurant on the way to the Rockies, and he gives the company employees a free dinner.
3. In the murder _____, the lawyer showed a record of text messages between the _____ and the suspect. The lawyer said these messages were clear _____ that the suspect was angry at her.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

plead – to say in court that you are guilty or not guilty of a crime

DNA – a substance that carries information about a person's genes

first-degree murder – a killing that was planned

prosecution – the side of a legal trial who argues that the accused is guilty

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_30m9e7

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ Garland is accused of killing Nathan, Alvin, and Kathy O'Brien.
2. ____ The three went missing in June of 2016.
3. ____ Garland pleaded not guilty to all three murders.
4. ____ The prosecution said Garland killed the Liknes' because of a disagreement.
5. ____ The disagreement was about a property partnership that went bad.
6. ____ They say Garland burned down the business.
7. ____ Garland lived on a rural property with his parents.
8. ____ DNA from two of the victims was found on the property.
9. ____ The trial is expected to take nine weeks.
10. ____ It is not known whether Garland's lawyers will provide evidence.

Food for Thought

How long do you think murder trials usually last? Why?

What kind of evidence do you think this judge will see?

What do you think will happen to Garland? What usually happens to murderers in Canada?

What happens to murderers in your country?

News story #2 Kevin O’Leary to run for Conservative leadership (1:23)

Setting the Scene



Kevin O’Leary (Jonathan Hayward/Canadian Press) (CBC file photo)

Kevin O’Leary is a Canadian businessman and media personality. He created SoftKey, a technology company, and has also worked in Canadian media. He had a business news television show called *The Exchange*. He also appeared as a judge and investor on the reality shows *Redemption Inc.*, *Shark Tank*, and *Dragons’ Den*. Now, he will be running to lead the Federal Conservative Party of Canada. The media has said O’Leary is similar to Donald Trump because he is also a businessman and television personality.

Pre-listening Questions

What are the major political parties in Canada?

Which party leads Calgary? Alberta? Canada?

What do you know about Kevin O’Leary? Do you know his television shows?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	replace (v.)	1. (political) competition, contest
_____	commentator (n.)	2. reported, stated
_____	announced (v.)	3. judged, attacked
_____	running (v.)	4. competing, participating
_____	debate (n.)	5. substitute, take over
_____	race (n.)	6. formal discussion, negotiation
_____	criticized (adj.)	7. choose, elect
_____	vote (v.)	8. observer, reporter

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

perjury – the crime of lying in court

acquitted – to be declared not guilty of a crime

step aside – leave a job

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_30m9nu

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then, listen to the audio and choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Kevin O'Leary wants to _____ Stephen Harper.	a) reward b) replace
The businessman and _____ announced he is running for the leadership.	a) television commentator b) transportation developer
The announcement came _____ after the French-only debate.	a) one day b) one hour
O'Leary _____ French.	a) does his work in b) does not speak
He joined the race _____ after it started.	a) seven months b) several months
He has been criticized for waiting to join until _____ the French-only debate.	a) just after b) judges saw
There are _____ other people running to lead the party.	a) 30 b) 13
Member will vote for a new leader on _____.	a) March 22 nd b) May 27 th

Food for thought

What do you know about the Conservative Party?

Do you think businesspeople can become good politicians? Why or why not?

Why should federal politicians in Canada speak French? Can you think of other skills that politicians should have?

News story #3 Donald Trump is the President of the United States (2:15)

Setting the Scene



The new President of the United States, Donald Trump (Saul Loeb/Getty Images) (CBC file photos)

On Friday, the 20th of January, Donald Trump was sworn into office as the President of the United States of America. Trump won the presidential election in November, representing the Republican Party. The election was a big news story, even in other countries. Trump's professional background is in business and television, not politics. Some people think a businessman will help the country's economy. Others worry because he has not worked in politics. Moreover, Trump has made many controversial remarks about women, immigrants and religious groups. Since his election, several protests and demonstrations have been held in the United States and around the world.

Pre-listening Questions

Were you surprised that Donald Trump won the election?

How are new leaders chosen in your country? Are there official events when new leaders come in?

How do you think Trump's new role will impact Canada? What about your home country?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
_____	officially (adv.)	a) damages
_____	populist (adj.)	b) a strong disagreement in a group
_____	borders (n.)	c) public gatherings to criticize a plan or project
_____	ravages (n.)	d) wanting to do something
_____	destructive (adj.)	e) done formally
_____	protests (n.)	f) to walk with a group of people in protest
_____	clashed (v.)	g) causing a large amount of harm
_____	controversy (n.)	h) once a year
_____	willing (v.)	i) claiming to represent regular people
_____	boycott (n.)	j) fought or disagreed with
_____	annual (adj.)	k) the lines that separate states/provinces/countries
_____	march (n.)	l) to refuse to buy, use, or take part in something

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

inauguration – an official ceremony to introduce someone in a new job

anti-Washington – against the national body of American government

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_30m9y8

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Listening Activity

Short Answer

Read the questions below. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. Where was Trump's inauguration held?
2. When was Trump's inauguration?
3. What was called populist and anti-Washington?
4. Trump promised to guard U.S. borders against the "ravages" of what?
5. What did Washington protesters wear?
6. What did the protesters do?
7. Trump had a hard time finding what kind of people?
8. Several people with what job decided to boycott?
9. How many marches are planned around the world?

Food for thought

Are you surprised by Trump's statement about US borders? Why or why not?

Have you ever attended a protest? What was the reason?

In this story, protesters clashed with police. What happens at protests in your home country?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JANUARY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott and this is Learning English with CBC for January 23rd with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	The triple murder trial for Douglas Garland is now in its second week. Garland is accused of killing 5-year-old Nathan O'Brien and his grandparents Alvin and Kathy Liknes. The three went missing in June of 2014. Their bodies were never found. Garland has pleaded not guilty to three counts of first-degree murder. The prosecution has told the court that Garland killed the Liknes' because of a long-held disagreement over a business partnership that went bad. They say Garland burned the bodies on a rural property north of Calgary where he lived with his parents. DNA from all three victims was found on the property. Garland's trial is expected to take five weeks. It's not yet known if Garland's lawyers will provide any evidence in the case.	0:11
Story 2	Kevin O'Leary wants to replace Stephen Harper as the leader of the Federal Conservative Party of Canada. The businessman and television commentator has announced he is running for the leadership. The announcement came one day after the French-language debate. O'Leary, who does not speak French, joins the race several months after it started. He has been criticized for waiting to join until just after the French-only debate. There are 13 other people running to lead the party. Members of the party will vote for a new leader on May 27th.	1:23
Story 3	Donald Trump is now officially the President of the United States. His inauguration was held in Washington DC on Friday. Some people called Trump's inaugural speech populist and anti-Washington. In it, he promised to guard US borders against the "ravages of other countries." Destructive protests broke out in Washington on the day of the inauguration. Protestors dressed in black smashed windows and clashed with police. There was lots of controversy around the inauguration before it happened. Trump had a hard time finding people willing to perform at the event, and a number of lawmakers decided to boycott. Protests were also planned for the day after the inauguration, including the annual Women's March on Washington. Around the world, more than 600 marches were planned.	2:15

Answer keys

News story 1 Garland murder trial enters second week (0:11)

Vocabulary

1. A group of customers accused the company of selling unsafe cars. They said the company was guilty of lying to the public about safety.
2. It can be difficult for businesses in rural areas to get a lot of customers. Michael has a partnership with a tourism company. Bus tours come to his restaurant on the way to the Rockies, and he gives the company employees a free dinner.
3. In the murder trial, the lawyer showed a record of text messages between the victim and the suspect. The lawyer said these messages were clear evidence that the suspect was angry at her.

Listening

1. F Garland is accused of killing Nathan, Alvin, and Kathy O'Brien.
2. F The three went missing in June of 2016.
3. T Garland pleaded not guilty to all three murders.
4. T The prosecution said Garland killed the Liknes' because of a disagreement.
5. F The disagreement was about a property partnership that went bad.
6. F They say Garland burned down the business.
7. T Garland lived on a rural property with his parents.
8. F DNA from two of the victims was found on the property.
9. F The trial is expected to take nine weeks.
10. T It is not known whether Garland's lawyers will provide evidence.

News story 2

Kevin O’Leary to run for Conservative leadership (1:23)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
<u>5</u>	replace (v.)	1. (political) competition, contest
<u>8</u>	commentator (n.)	2. reported, stated
<u>2</u>	announced (v.)	3. judged, attacked
<u>4</u>	running (v.)	4. competing, participating
<u>6</u>	debate (n.)	5. substitute, take over
<u>1</u>	race (n.)	6. formal discussion, negotiation
<u>3</u>	criticized (adj.)	7. choose, elect
<u>7</u>	vote (v.)	8. observer, reporter

Listening

Kevin O’Leary wants to _____ Stephen Harper.	a) reward b) replace
The businessman and _____ announced he is running for the leadership.	a) television commentator b) transportation developer
The announcement came _____ after the French-only debate.	a) one day b) one hour
O’Leary _____ French.	a) does his work in b) does not speak
He joined the race _____ after it started.	a) seven months b) several months
He has been criticized for waiting to join until _____ the French-only debate.	a) just after b) judges saw

There are _____ other people running to lead the party.	a) 30 b) 13
Member will vote for a new leader on _____.	a) March 22 nd b) May 27 th

News story 3 Donald Trump is the President of the United States (2:15)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Vocabulary word</u>	<u>Definition</u>
e	officially (adv.)	a) damages
i	populist (adj.)	b) a strong disagreement in a group
k	borders (n.)	c) public gatherings to criticize a plan or project
a	ravages (n.)	d) wanting to do something
g	destructive (adj.)	e) done formally
c	protests (n.)	f) to walk with a group of people in protest
i	clashed (v.)	g) causing a large amount of harm
b	controversy (n.)	h) once a year
d	willing (v.)	i) claiming to represent regular people
l	boycott (n.)	j) fought or disagreed with
h	annual (adj.)	k) the lines that separate states/provinces/countries
f	march (n.)	l) to refuse to buy, use, or take part in something

Listening

1. Where was Trump's inauguration held?
In Washington DC
2. When was Trump's inauguration?
(last) Friday
3. What was called populist and anti-Washington?
Trump's inaugural speech
4. He promised to guard U.S. borders against the "ravages" of what?
Other countries
5. What did Washington protesters wear?
Black (clothing)
6. What did the protesters do?
Smash windows and clash with police
7. Trump had a hard time finding what kind of people?
People willing to perform at the event
8. Several people with what job decided to boycott?
Lawmakers
9. How many marches are planned around the world?
More than 600